

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/992,986	GEIGER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit

Tran N. Nguyen

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 5/12/03.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. The drawings filed on 05 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.
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Tran N. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2834

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9 are allowed.

Reason for Allowability

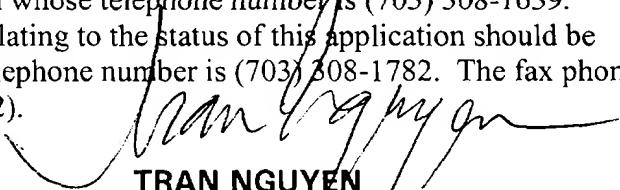
The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the primary reason for the allowance is the including, in combination with other limitations recited in the claims, the limitations of a drive unit comprising a housing of an internal combustion engine, a drive shaft mounted for rotation in said housing, said drive shaft being a crankshaft, a stator fixed with respect to said housing, said stator having a surface forming the boundary of an air gap, a rotor coaxial to said stator and in torque-transmitting connection with the drive shaft, said drive shaft causing said rotor to exhibit a wobbling motion which describes a geometric slewing curve, said rotor having a surface forming a boundary of said air gap opposite from said surface of said stator, at least one of said surfaces approximating said geometric slewing curve in a cross section parallel to the drive shaft.

Comparing to the prior-art of the record, the most relevant references are Liang (US '029 and GB '808). However, the electric machines in these reference specifically for the pump system; therefore, Liang does not provide any teaching or suggestion or motivation for an artisan to embodying the Liang's disclosed spherical air gap stator and rotor structure of the electric machine in the internal combustion engine. Furthermore, the recited drive shaft in the present invention is a crankshaft of an internal combustion. Thus, none of the prior art references of the record, either stand-alone or in combination, has taught or suggest the above-mentioned features in combination with other limitations recited in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tran Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1639.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3431 (32).


TRAN NGUYEN
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TC-2800